

GEO. E. STIFEL &amp; CO.

Geo. E. Stifel &amp; Co.

1154 to 1160 Main Street.

As was anticipated, there was a grand rush for the big Remnant Sale all day yesterday, but in the rush some counters were overlooked, hence there are some extra good pickings still to be had in Silks, Dress Goods, Wrappers, Domestics, etc., etc. These we will close out to-day. If unfortunate enough to have been crowded out yesterday, COME TO-DAY—you may find just what you want.

Geo. E. Stifel &amp; Co.

GEO. R. TAYLOR CO.

GEO. R. TAYLOR COMPANY.

Special Inventory  
Clearance Sale of  
Ladies' Tailor-Made  
Suits, Skirts,  
Jackets, Capes.  
Goods Must be  
Sold. Prices Made  
Accordingly.

GEO. R. TAYLOR COMPANY.

THE NATIONAL EXCHANGE BANK OF WHEELING.

J. M. VANCE, President. 5164. L. E. SANDS, Cashier.  
JOHN FREW, Vice President. 5164. W. B. IRVINE, Asst. Cashier.

The National Exchange Bank

CAPITAL \$800,000. Of Wheeling. SURPLUS \$35,000.

DIRECTORS.

J. N. Vance, John Frew, G. E. Stifel, John Waterhouse, William Killingham, J. M. Brown, Dr. John L. Dickey, W. E. Stone, W. H. Frank.

Business entrusted to our care will receive prompt and careful attention.

GAIL BORDEN  
EAGLE BRAND  
CONDENSED MILK  
HAS NO EQUAL AS AN INFANT FOOD.  
"INFANT HEALTH" SENT FREE.



"DIRT DEFIES THE KING." THEN

SAPOLIO

IS GREATER THAN ROYALTY ITSELF

THE WEST  
ALEXANDER  
TRAGEDY.

George W. McCommon Shot and Killed by Frank McGee, Just Across the State Line.

## THE MURDERER INTERFERED

With McCommon, Who Was a Special Constable Guarding a Sheep Thief, and in a Rage

## HE FIRED THE FATAL SHOT

That Brands Him With the Mark of Cain—Murderer and Thief Taken to Washington.

The peaceful little village of West Alexander, Pa., about fifteen miles east of Wheeling, and just across the West Virginia line, was the scene of a bold murder yesterday morning. The victim was George W. McCommon, a brother of Parker McCommon, of Wheeling, and he was killed by Frank McGee. The murder was the indirect outcome of sheep stealing cases which have been troubling the farmers of Ohio and Washington counties within the last few weeks. McGee was captured and is now confined in the Washington county jail, at Little Washington.

The shooting occurred at 8:45 a. m., in the central part of the town, and it was witnessed by many people. McCommon was shot through both lungs, the ball entering below the right armpit, and after staggering a few yards he dropped dead. The tragedy created intense excitement and the feeling murderer was captured after a thrilling chase in a field on the West Virginia side of the line, but not until he had fired several shots from his revolver at his pursuers, none of which took effect, and realizing that escape was impossible or that he might be killed in return, McGee halted in his flight and gave himself up to a farmer, John Pogue, who had ridden up to him on horseback. McGee ran two miles.

As stated, the affair was connected with sheep stealing cases. Saturday afternoon, Constable Early arrested Cal Douglas in West Alexander, on suspicion that Douglas was the thief, and as there is no lock-up in the town, Douglas was placed in a room at Chaney's hotel, under guard, until proper disposition could be made of the prisoner. Douglas and McGee were close friends, and the latter, who did odd jobs about Rice's livery stable, which is in the rear of the hotel, protested against Douglas's arrest. McCommon was one of the men in the guard, and he was considerably annoyed by McGee's interference, which continued at intervals from Saturday night until yesterday morning, and it is said he threatened to "fix" McCommon.

## Leading to the Tragedy.

McGee kept saying there was no warrant sworn out for Douglas's arrest, and his persistent interference accompanied by insulting remarks, culminated in the lamented death of a highly respected citizen. At the hour mentioned, Douglas was being taken out of the hotel to the street on the way to Squire Waltz's office, for a hearing on the charge of stealing nine sheep from S. A. Noble, of Washington county, he previously having been identified by Mr. John Schenk, of the firm of F. Schenk & Sons, of this city, as the man who had sold him the sheep. The fact that Douglas had been confined in the hotel for two days aroused the interest in such affairs characteristic of small communities, consequently a large crowd had assembled in the street in front of the hotel. McGee again became obnoxious to the special constables, and it is said, stepped up to McCommon with impertinent remarks. By some, it is said, McCommon drew his mace as if to strike McGee, whereupon the latter drew his revolver and fired point blank at McCommon. The ball entered McCommon's right side, lodging in his left side and passing through both lungs. Death was almost instantaneous.

There were two Wheeling men near the scene, Mr. Schenk and Mr. William Erskine, the lawyer, both of whom had gone out to West Alexander on the 7 o'clock train yesterday morning, on different missions. Mr. Schenk was summoned by a telephone message Sunday afternoon to identify the man from whom he had bought the sheep, which he had since learned were stolen. Mr. Schenk picked Douglas out in the crowd without hesitation.

Local interest is given to the murder from other phases. Douglas was wanted in this county on the charge of stealing sheep from D. T. Atkinson, of Roney's Point, whose farm is near the state line, and the murdered man was a brother of J. Parker McCommon, of the Island, traveling salesman for the wholesale grocery firm of Waterhouse Bros. Another brother, Lester McCommon, is a well known resident of Potomac, this county. The deceased, who lived in West Alexander, leaves a widow, for whom there is general sympathy in her sad bereavement. He was about fifty years of age.

## The Sheep Thiefs.

On Saturday, Sheriff Richards and Chief Clemens were informed of the theft of sheep from Mr. Atkinson, and on investigation they learned that the sheep had been sold to the firm of Weimer & Son, of Fulton, who had given their order to "J. Robinson." This is believed to be a fictitious name, and that Douglas was the man. It was further learned that he secured a wagon from Otterson, the Second ward liveryman, on Friday before he returned on Saturday morning. When he got the wagon his wife and child rode away with him, but they were not with him when he returned. He explained their absence by saying they would come in later on the West Liberty hack. Incidentally it may be added that Douglas failed to pay for the wagon.

Later, on Saturday, a telephone mes-

sage was received at Wheeling police headquarters from West Alexander, to the effect that Douglas was suspected as the sheep thief who had been causing losses to the farmers thereabouts, and the local authorities sent word back to arrest Douglas and notify them. No notification was received, and Wheeling authorities are of the opinion that if they had been notified, they might have got Douglas over the state line into this county, in which event yesterday's tragedy might not have occurred.

McGee and Douglas were taken to Washington in a surrey and they will be held for trial in that county. McGee is only about twenty years of age. He is said to have taken a delight in earlier years in seeing hay stacks burn, to which he touched the match. Douglas formerly lived at West Liberty, and his name has been associated with numerous thefts. Yesterday afternoon, Sheriff Richards wrote a letter to the Washington authorities, stating that he would like to have Douglas turned over to this county for stealing sheep from Mr. Atkinson. He will first have to answer to the Noble case in Washington county.

## Held for Grand Jury.

Squire Waltz held both Douglas and McGee for the grand jury. They were then handcuffed together and driven to Washington, in charge of Constable Early and Deputy Sheriff Samuel O. Armstrong. Along the road McGee seemed to be in excellent spirits, whistling and singing, and he maintained this demeanor when placed in jail. An incident that occurred at the jail, however, showed that he realized the situation he was in. Removing some collar buttons from a card in his pocket he gave the card and the remaining buttons to the constable, saying: "You can have them to remember me by. I may never get them back."

The post-mortem was conducted last night, by Drs. Timmons and Sprowls, of West Alexander, assisted by Dr. D. B. Best, of Wheeling, and the bullet, which was a 32-calibre, was removed from its lodging place in the murdered man's left side. The coroner's inquest will be held this morning at 9 o'clock, by County Coroner Fitzpatrick, of California, Pa. The inquest will likely bring out the threats McGee is said to have made, "of fixing McCommon before the day was done."

Mr. McCommon was engaged in operating a creamery until recently, and it is said that McGee was at one time in his employ, but there is nothing known of any disagreement they had previous to Douglas's arrest. At the time of his death, Mr. McCommon was engaged in buying and selling poultry.

The funeral will occur to-morrow morning at 11:30 o'clock, from the West Alexander Presbyterian church, in charge of Rev. Dr. Lester, and it is certain that the edifice will be crowded. Friends of the family are invited to attend. The deceased was a member of the A. O. U. W.

## THEY WERE SLOW.

Benwood Police Fail to Follow Up an Arrest.

In a Benwood Junction boarding house on Sunday morning, at an early hour, an employee of the Riverside blast furnace, named Charles Johnston, assaulted a fellow boarder, and raised all kinds of trouble generally. Johnston, who is a powerful fellow, used a poker in the assault, and his victim was severely injured. The assistance of Baltimore & Ohio Detective Harry Metz, of McMechen, was invoked, who succeeded after considerable effort, in putting the "nippers" on Johnston. The latter had to be subdued by the officer's mace. The affair occurred about 1:30 a. m., and after Metz secured his man, he telephoned to the Benwood police to relieve him of his prisoner, but after waiting three hours for their arrival he became disgusted and released Johnston, who speedily got out of town.

## THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE.

Ordinance Committee Did Not Consider It Last Night.

The application of the National Telephone Company for a franchise from the city was to have been considered by the committee on ordinances last night, but as City Solicitor Nesbitt was not prepared to report on the ordinance, the committee adjourned without action until January 31, when it is expected the matter will be fully gone over. An interesting session was looked for. Mr. Nesbitt was engrossed yesterday with the Scheele case in the circuit court, so that he was unable to complete his report on the ordinance, which had been referred to the committee from the first branch of council.

## SHE QUIT COFFEE

And Got Well With the Help of Postum Food Coffee.

"I am a school girl, and want to tell you what Postum Food Coffee has done for me and several of my relatives.

"The old-fashioned coffee always made me heavy and dull, and gave me heartburn, with dyspepsia. When we tried Postum Food Coffee it did not taste good, but I begged for another trial, when the directions were followed, and we found it delicious. Since that time, we have used it regularly, and I never have any trouble with the heavy feeling of dyspepsia.

"Dr. Lowrie prescribed Postum for my uncle, Mr. J. property man of the Boston Theatre, and it worked a marvelous change in him. He quit the common coffee, and has been using Postum Food Coffee ever since. He looks better than he ever did before. His family also used it. Uncle is very strong in his praise of Postum for the good it has done him. Please do not use my signature, but you can use the statement."

Worcester, Mass.

The name can be furnished by the Postum Cereal Co., at Battle Creek, Mich.

## A Notable Wedding.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 22.—A wedding of unusual interest took place to-day when Miss Minnie Drexel Fell, daughter of Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer, was married to Robert Kelo Cassatt, son of A. J. Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania company. The ceremony was performed in St. Thomas' Episcopal church, White Marsh, by Rev. Samuel Snelling.

For Morbid Conditions take BEECH-AM'S PILLS.

## CASTORIA.

Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Williams.

THE TASTE OF  
"APENTA"

is preferable to that of other Purgative Waters. More gentle in action. Does not cause crampy pains.

THE HOSPITALS of EUROPE and the UNITED STATES use Apenta regularly. It is recommended by the leading Physicians of the World.

The Name of the APOLLINARIS CO., Ltd., London, on the label is a guarantee of uniformity and superiority.

## TELEPHONE CONSOLIDATION.

Bell Company Absorbs Nearly All the Independent Subscribers in Michigan.

DETROIT, Jan. 19.—A gigantic telephone consolidation has been consummated. Ten thousand independent telephone subscribers, located in forty-six cities in Michigan, including Detroit, 6,000 miles of independent long distance lines, 160 long distance stations, representing fully seventy per cent of the entire independent telephone business in the state of Michigan, passing into the hands of the Michigan Telephone Company. Charles J. Glidden, president, and Hon. John C. Burke, general counsel, of the Michigan and Erie telephone systems, have been, at the Russell House the past few days in consultation with the managers of the independent companies.

John Stuart Mill clearly explained to our grandfathers how foolish people were who expected the price of any product would be permanently kept down to the cost of production through a war of competition. And now the good citizens of Detroit have a practical illustration of the same lesson our grandfathers learned seventy years ago, and which has also been practically illustrated every few years since the opening of the sixteenth century. The press dispatches inform us that "the Michigan (Bell) Telephone Company has closed the deal for the control of the two independent companies that were pioneers and leaders in the independent telephone movement; the Detroit Telephone Company and the New State Telephone Company. Governor Pingree and several of his political and personal friends were prominent in the organization of the Detroit company."

The Detroit Telephone Company was organized on February 20, 1896, under circumstances that led the citizens to believe that it would prove a strong and probably successful competitor of the Bell. It was capitalized at \$1,000,000. Published reports show that the initial working capital was obtained through persuading many an office-holder in the various departments of the municipality, the policemen and the firemen, to invest, on one or more shares of stock on the installment plan. An elegant prospectus was then issued, showing that on a basis of 5,000 subscribers there would be a certainty of 10 per cent annual dividends, together with an annual surplus of more than \$30,000, after paying all fixed charges, including 6 per cent on \$400,000 in bonds and all costs of operation and maintenance.

But there never was any surplus, and the company never earned a dividend. For the cost of operating an exchange far exceeded all expectations, and it was soon found that the cost of maintenance, fixed charges and the outlay required for replacements were aggregating more each quarter than the subscribers were paying in. So it became necessary to adopt a new plan to rescue the public-spirited gentlemen who had benefited the good people of Detroit by giving them a competing telephone system. These good and loyal men owned much capital stock that they generously preferred should be owned by others, but if it could not be shown that the Detroit plant was a profitable investment how could the people be inveigled into buying the stock? Thus these generous gentlemen reasoned that if a new telephone company could be organized with the avowed object of connecting up all independent exchanges in the state and connecting every farmer with telephone lines to the county seat, its stock could be easily disposed of among farmers and villagers. Then the proceeds of these sales could be applied to bearing the burden of the cost of maintaining and operating the Detroit exchange.

In this manner a favorable showing could be made for the Detroit company, so that inexperienced investors could easily be influenced into buying the stock. And the scheme worked admirably, the villagers snapping at the bait with the same avidity that a Reuben buys the "gold brick," or the package of "green goods."

The new State Telephone Company was organized on February 9, 1897, with a capital of \$1,000,000. The company was organized for the purpose of establishing an independent toll line system throughout the state of Michigan, and of absorbing or building the necessary local exchanges to compete with the Bell plants. The stock was placed on the market as a perfectly safe investment, and the financial prospectus showed that when the company secured 15,000 subscribers in small towns, at an average annual rental of \$30 each, it would secure an income of \$500,000; that only \$200,000 would be required to meet all possible requirements, hence there would be a balance of \$300,000, or "an assured 10 per cent dividend," yearly. It was also stated that "proceeds from stock sales will be immediately utilized in the construction of exchanges and connecting toll lines, and in such manner as to make the earning ability of funds secured commence at once. All stock will be sold at its par value only."

It was also stated that "a net annual income of \$50,000" would be received from certain toll stations, "making the total annual net earnings for dividends \$150,000—an assured annual dividend of 15 per cent for shareholders."

The final chapter as outlined in the press dispatches shows that the "assured annual dividend of 15 per cent" never materialized, and that the confiding shareholders did not receive all of the principal back, to say nothing of any interest for the three years' use of their money.

After this company had been in operation for some months the Sault Ste. Marie (Mich.) News pertinently said: "The New State Telephone Company builds no exchanges, but it trades its stock for so-called independent exchanges when the people who have tried to make them pay become tired of the effort and are ready to sell out for anything, even for handsomely printed stock certificates that have no value. Does any reasoning person suppose these shrewd people would be peddling to clerks, seamstresses, firemen and policemen on the installment plan 15 per cent investments, with the Detroit banks overflying with money, begging investments at 4 per cent?"

The good citizens of Michigan naturally concluded that the Detroit Telephone Company was not and never had been a splendid success, either from a telephone or an investment standpoint, though it had been a success from the standpoint of the promoters reaping a harvest at the expense of confiding stockholders. And they naturally concluded that the heroic remedy applied to save the Detroit Telephone Company was intended simply as a measure of relief to enable the original promoters to unload the stock voted to them before the bottom fell out.

The Tribune, of Detroit, said: "How-ever profitable it may be in theory, boot-legging in the telephone business is not satisfactory either to stockholders or rival

companies or to their patrons. What-ever is gained by decrease in rentals is more than compensated for by inconvenience of two systems and necessity of patronizing both exchanges."

The Detroit Free Press said: "Telephone competition is destroyed. There is not room enough for another organization to get a foothold without expenditures of an enormous sum of money upon chance that is not inviting."

President Flowers, of the Detroit and New State telephone companies, says: "After four years of struggle stockholders in Detroit Telephone Company seem to have been willing to sell. We have never made any money. We have never declared but one dividend, and that so small that I would not want to say anything about it. Consolidation has got to be the result in every case where there are competing companies."

## A BIG SOCIAL EVENT

Is the Concert and Ball of the Opera House Orchestra.

The annual concert and ball of the Opera House orchestra and band, to be given this evening at Arion hall, is one of the big social events of the season, and it is assured that the attendance will be very large. The committee in charge have made great preparations for the function. The dance committee is composed of Messrs. Fred Schwertfeger, William Gutman and Edward Vaas. The concert programme is as follows:

March—"True to the Flag".....F. V. Blon  
Overture—"Hungarian Lustspiel".....Kellar-Bela  
Descriptive Idyl—"In a Bird Store".....Orth  
Gems from Victor Herbert's Comilo  
Opera, "Cyrano De Bergerac".....Arr. by O. Lange  
Xylophone Solo, Galop—"Drip Drip".....Ringleben  
Descriptive Fantasia—"A Hunting Scene".....Bucalossi  
The dance programme follows:

1. Waltz....."My Estrella"  
2. Two Step....."The Runaway Girl"  
3. Waltz....."The Highwayman"  
4. Lancers....."Popular Favorites"  
5. Two Step....."Dankies Delight"  
6. Waltz....."Mid the Green Fields of Virginia"  
7. Two Step....."The Man Behind the Gun"  
8. Newport....."The Midnight Trip to Westport"  
9. Waltz....."The Girl I Loved in Sunny Tennessee"  
10. Waltz....."The Serenade"  
11. Two Step....."Campin' on the Ole Sawtooth"  
12. Waltz....."Home, Sweet Home"

## Baltimore Lodge Entertains.

Last night, at the lodge rooms on Market street, Baltimore lodge No. 5, KKnights of Pythias, entertained members of the order from other lodges and towns, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. Visitors were present from Martin's Ferry, Bridgeport, Bellaire, Moundsville and Benwood. Several scores were over from Martin's Ferry.

CAN'T be perfect health without pure blood. Burdock's Blood Bitters makes pure blood. Tones and invigorates the whole system.—1

## To Paris Exposition.

Cook's Excursions from Wheeling include all necessary expenses.  
27 days.....\$170 33 days.....\$200  
41 days.....\$225 77 days.....\$350

For particulars address  
J. G. TOMLINSON,  
Steamship Agent.

## DIED.

BUTLER—On Sunday, January 21, 1900, at 4:30 p. m., HARRY E., son of J. M. and A. T. Butler, of Elm Grove, W. Va., in his 21st year.

Funeral from the home of J. M. Butler on January 23 at 2 p. m. Friends of the family invited to attend. Interment at Stone Church cemetery.

CHRISTENSEN—On Monday, January 22, 1900, at 2:45 p. m., HELENA MARIE CHRISTENSEN, aged 79 years, 9 months and 6 days.

Funeral notice hereafter.

## UNDEBTAKING.

Louis Bertschy,  
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and ARTERIAL EMBALMER.

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CUT FLOWERS.  
Framed emblems and decorations for funerals promptly furnished at very moderate prices.

R. D. BERTRAND & CO.,  
Telephone 384. 1130 Main St.

## NOW READY.

Daughter of the Elm.  
A Tale of the Virginia Border Before the War.

By GRANVILLE DAVISSON HALL.

A powerful story, recalling forgotten tragedies. A love story threads a stirring recital of crime and detective work. Scene in the valley of the upper Monongahela, connecting with Pittsburgh, Clarksville and Fairmont.

The book is something more than an ordinary bit of fiction. It has a substratum of historical fact, and some real people figure in its pages. There is a vivid glimpse of American life as found in that valley forty years ago. The book critic of a great metropolitan western daily, who read the manuscript, says the author has "dipped his pen in the very pigments of life." The head of a leading Chicago publishing house said of it: "We have been much interested;" "the plot is clever" and details "ingenious." "The story itself is interesting and there are some capital situations."

MAYER & MILLER, CHICAGO.

Cloth, 330 p., \$1.00. Sold by Frank Stanton, or sent postpaid on receipt of price. Address, A. C. Hall, Glencoe, Ill.